



Karner Blue News

Wisconsin's Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Conservation Plan Newsbrief
for HCP partners, collaborators and participants



December 2003

2004 Calendar of Events

January 5	Annual report forms sent to partners
February 18	HCP team winter meeting
February 18	Implementation Oversight Committee (IOC) meeting (tentative)
March 1	Partners' annual reports due to DNR
March 8	Partner updates of effectiveness monitoring site pool
March 12	Effectiveness monitoring site selection
April 13	HCP 6-month review meeting with DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
April 14	IOC meeting
May 1	2003 Annual Report Summary due to USFWS
May 25, 26, 27	Statewide effectiveness monitoring training sessions
June, July or August (TBD)	HCP team summer field trip and meeting
June 9	IOC meeting (tentative)
August 11	IOC meeting
September 15	Effectiveness monitoring data due to DNR
October 13	IOC meeting
October TBD	HCP 6-month review meeting with DNR and USFWS
November 12	Annual effectiveness monitoring summary released

Karner Blue Webpage Updates

The DNR Karner Blue Butterfly HCP webpage (<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invertebrates/karner.htm>) has been expanded in the past year to include:

- Illustrated fact sheets on Karner blue ecology, habitat restoration, the Karner blue range and the HCP
- A questionnaire to help land managers determine their responsibilities regarding the Karner blue
- A partner list
- Updated and amended HCP text
- Recent HCP-related reports and meeting minutes

Look for more webpage improvements in the future.

Important DNR Staffing Changes

- Rebecca Schroeder has been hired as Chief of the Ecosystem and Diversity Conservation Section of the Endangered Resources Program.
- Bob Hess has been hired as a conservation biologist. Bob is stationed in central Wisconsin.
- Yoyi Hernandez has left the HCP program for a position with the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative. Megan Marie has taken on Yoyi's duties as the HCP Assistant. Megan is also the Gypsy Moth Suppression Coordinator for DNR's South Central Region.
- Sarah Carter has left the HCP program to devote time to her new child. Scott Bernstein has replaced Sarah as the HCP Data Manager.

New HCP Partners

New limited HCP partners include: Adams Township (Adams County), Burnett County Highway Department, Eau Claire County Highway Department, Juneau County Highway Department, Quincy Township (Adams County), and Swiss Township (Burnett County).

Implementation Oversight Committee Membership Changes and Progress Report

The Implementation Oversight Committee (IOC) is comprised of representatives from public and private HCP partner groups. The IOC meets every two months to discuss issues of HCP implementation.

New IOC representatives include:

- Jim Zahasky of Jackson County Forest, county forest representative
- Jody Gindt of Eau Claire County Forest, county forest alternate
- Joel Aanensen of Plum Creek Timber, forest industry representative
- Rob Kudick of Wausau-Mosinee Paper, forest industry alternate
- Earl Gustafson of the Wisconsin Paper Council, participant advisor

Outgoing IOC representatives include:

- Rick Dailey of Clark County Forest
- Doug Barncard of International Paper

IOC Chair Selection:

Gary Birch (WDOT) was unanimously elected to continue as IOC chair for the next permit year (September 27, 2003 through September 26, 2004).

Progress Report:

The IOC has represented its partner groups admirably. Over the past year, IOC representatives have provided excellent guidance on issues such as new partner inclusion, monitoring strategy improvements, the changed-circumstances reporting process, three-year participation strategy review report, and supporting partner issues and needs.

Thanks to all IOC members for their hard work.



Del Monte staff people monitor a lupine seed production plot at their Plover farm (photo: Ursula Petersen)

Adaptive Management Means Making Improvements

HCP partners and collaborators have learned much about HCP protocols in the past four years, and occasionally we find an opportunity to refine an accepted practice. In 2004, adaptive management will focus on changes to the HCP monitoring strategy, specifically the sampling plan.

Monitoring methods will likely remain similar to existing methods, but the habitat and population criteria that we monitor may change. On December 10, 2003, the newly established Monitoring Improvement Team will begin work on this issue. The team will revisit the monitoring goals of the HCP and redesign the sampling plan based on these goals.



A Karner Blue Butterfly Princess enjoys the Karner Blue Butterfly Festival at Black River Falls, WI (photo: Mike Engel)

Summer 2003 Outreach Activities

Following annual tradition, the DNR staffed educational displays at the 2003 Karner Blue Butterfly Festival in Black River Falls and the 2003 Farm Technology Days in Waupaca County. The DNR is pleased to report that enthusiasm for voluntary Karner blue conservation still seems to be rising. The HCP Communications Team plans to use the three-year participation strategy review report (posted on the DNR Karner blue website, see page 1 for address) to generate increased media coverage of the Karner Blue Butterfly Festival in 2004.